

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BISSAU
AMEMBASSY BANJUL
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
AMEMBASSY PRAIA
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:PFOR

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING, APRIL 26, 1978

FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED EXCERPT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING. IF NECESSARY OFFICIAL VERSION WILL FOLLOW.

Q: NOW THAT THE SALISBURY GROUP HAS REJECTED THE ALL-PARTIES MEETING - FIRST, DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THAT - AND SECOND - WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

A: WE'RE PREPARED TO CONTINUE OUR CONTACTS WITH ALL THE PARTIES TO DEFINE FURTHER THE ISSUES WHICH COULD BE DISCUSSED AT SUCH A MEETING, AND, IN DOING SO, TO TRY TO INCREASE THE CHANCES FOR ITS SUCCESS. WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE SALISBURY STATEMENT AS A CATEGORICAL REJECTION OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN SUGGESTION OF AN ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE. WE CERTAINLY DO NOT ACCEPT THEIR ASSERTION THAT AN ALL-PARTIES MEETING WOULD NECESSARILY BE DESTINED TO FAIL AS THE GENEVA CONFERENCE DID IN 1976. TWO THINGS CHANGE THE SITUATION. THE FIRST IS THAT THERE ARE NEW ALIGNMENTS AMONG THE PARTIES. THE SECOND IS THAT THE WAR WITHIN RHODESIA HAS INCREASED GREATLY IN INTENSITY. THUS IT IS OUR STRONG FEELING THAT THERE IS AN EVEN GREATER NEED TODAY THAN AT THE TIME OF GENEVA FOR A FAIR SETTLEMENT WHICH GIVES ALL THE PARTIES AN OPPORTUNITY TO SECURE POLITICAL POWER THROUGH FAIR AND FREE ELECTIONS.

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WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT A WORKABLE SOLUTION CAN BE ACHIEVED IF THE PARTIES WILL PUT THEIR MINDS AND THEIR WILL BEHIND THE EFFORT TO REALIZE PRINCIPLES WHICH THEY HAVE ALL ACCEPTED, I.E., UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE, THE PROTECTION OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS AND MAJORITY RULE.

IN OTHER WORDS - WE ARE GOING TO CONTINUE TO MAKE THE EFFORT TO BRING THE PARTIES TOGETHER.

Q: WHY DO YOU SAY THAT YOU DON'T TAKE IT AS AN ABSOLUTE REJECTION?

A: SIMPLY OUR FEELING IS THAT WE HAVE BEEN IN THIS PROCESS A LONG TIME AND THAT WE HAVE SEEN IT TAKE VARIOUS TURNS AND SHAPES AND WE HAVE FELT ALL ALONG THAT WHAT WE WERE OFFERING CONTAINED THE NECESSARY INGREDIENTS FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION AND WE STILL BELIEVE THAT ALL THE PARTIES CAN AND WILL BE BROUGHT TO AGREE TO THAT.

Q: WHAT ABOUT NAMIBIA? HAVE YOU HAD ANY REPLY FROM SWAPO?

A: WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH MR. WALDHEIM AND THROUGH

OUR PEOPLE IN NEW YORK WITH MR. NUJOMA. I DON'T HAVE
ANYTHING MORE TO REPORT ON WHAT THEY'RE SAYING. I THINK
THEY WILL BE SPEAKING FOR THEMSELVES PRETTY SOON. THE
GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA HAS MADE CLEAR ITS ACCEPTANCE
OF THE PROPOSALS.
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